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Item 84 of the provisional agenda*

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 5 of its resolution 50/28 C of 6 December 1995, entitled "Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities", the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Reaffirms the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
>
> "2. Expresses the hope for an accelerated return of displaced persons through the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements;
>
> "3. Endorses, in the meanwhile, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure,

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to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

"4. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above purposes;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its fifty-first session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 10 April 1996, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, in which he drew attention to his reporting responsibility under the resolution and requested the Permanent Representative to inform him of any action his Government had taken or envisaged to take in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. In a note verbale dated 3 May 1996, the Permanent Representative of Israel replied as follows:

"Israel's position on these resolutions has been set forth in successive annual replies submitted to the Secretary-General in recent years, the latest of which being Israel's note verbale dated 8 June 1995. While it is true that the number of resolutions regarding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has been reduced in the past years from 10 to 7, the content of these resolutions remains occupied with political issues irrelevant to the work for which UNRWA is responsible, and thus remains detached from the new reality. Accordingly, Israel abstained on resolution 50/28 D and voted against resolutions 50/28 A, C, E, F, and G.

"It should be noted that the signature of the Declaration of Principles and the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area has engendered further significant progress in the framework of the peace process. This includes the signature, by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), of the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on 28 September 1995 in Washington, D.C., the redeployment of Israel Defence Forces from Palestinian population centres, the elections to the Palestinian Council, and the continuing negotiations on further implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

"Israel believes that UNRWA can play an important role in promoting the social and economic advancement foreseen in the agreements between Israel and the PLO, and accordingly looks forward to continuing the cooperation and good working relationship with UNRWA.

"In the light of the above, Israel considers it essential that the General Assembly consolidate the resolutions regarding UNRWA into one

resolution directly related to the Agency's humanitarian tasks. This would also be compatible with the necessity to rationalize the work of the General Assembly."

4. In connection with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 50/28 C, the Secretary-General has obtained from the Commissioner-General of UNRWA the information available to him on the return of refugees registered with the Agency. As indicated in previous reports on the subject, the Agency is not involved in any arrangements for the return of refugees nor is it involved in any arrangements for the return of displaced persons who are not registered as refugees. Its information is based on requests by returning registered refugees for transfer of their entitlements for services to the areas to which they have returned and subsequent correction of records. The Agency would not necessarily be aware of the return of any registered refugees who did not request the provision of services. So far as is known to the Agency, between 1 July 1995 and 30 June 1996, 784 refugees registered with UNRWA returned to the West Bank and 329 to the Gaza Strip. It should be noted that some of these may not themselves have been displaced in 1967, but may be members of the family of a displaced registered refugee whom they accompanied on his return or joined thereafter. Thus, taking into account the estimate given in paragraph 4 of last year's report (A/50/451), the number of displaced registered refugees who are known by the Agency to have returned to the occupied territories since June 1967 is about 15,280. The Agency is unable to estimate the total number of displaced inhabitants who have returned. It keeps records only of registered refugees and, as pointed out above, even those records, particularly with respect to location of registered refugees, may be incomplete.

5. In connection with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 50/28 C, the Secretary-General refers to the report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 (A/51/13) and to the previous reports of the Commissioner-General for accounts of the continuous and ongoing assistance provided by UNRWA to persons displaced and in need of continued assistance

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 50/28 D of 6 December 1995.

2. The report includes the substance of responses from Member States and United Nations agencies to the appeal contained in that resolution, together with reference to further action taken by Member States and United Nations agencies in response to the appeal contained in General Assembly resolutions 32/90 F of 13 December 1977, 33/112 C of 18 December 1978, 34/52 C of 23 November 1979, 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, 36/146 H of 16 December 1981, 37/120 D of 16 December 1982, 38/83 D of 15 December 1983, 39/99 D of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D of 16 December 1985, 41/69 D of 3 December 1986, 42/69 D of 2 December 1987, 43/57 D of 6 December 1988, 44/47 D of 8 December 1989, 45/73 D of 11 December 1990, 46/46 D of 9 December 1991, 47/69 D of 14 December 1992, 48/40 D of 10 December 1993 and 49/35 D of 9 December 1994. In those resolutions the Assembly appealed to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to augment the special allocations for grants and scholarships to Palestine refugees; invited the relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students; and requested the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

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(UNRWA) to act as the recipient and trustee for such special allocations for grants and scholarships and to award them to qualified refugee candidates.

3. In 1995/96, the Government of Japan awarded 10 fellowships through UNRWA, of which 3 were to Palestine refugees employed by UNRWA as vocational training staff at the eight vocational training centres in its area of operations, 1 was a fellowship in Vocational Training Administration and the remaining 6 were fellowships in community health awarded to Palestine refugees employed by UNRWA as health staff. Applications of nominees for these fellowships for training in Japan were processed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. A review of the programme shows that since its inception in 1985, and until 1996, a total of 134 fellowships have been offered by the Government of Japan, of which 124 have been processed. In 1989, the Government of Japan contributed $1 million, to be spent over a five-year period, towards the UNRWA university scholarship programme for secondary school graduates. The recipients are Palestine refugee students from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. One hundred and seven scholars graduated from this programme between 1993 and 1995 in a wide spectrum of specializations, while 41 students were still pursuing their university studies in the 1995/96 academic year. Arrangements were under way to use the interest accruing on this contribution to grant additional scholarships to some 8 to 10 Palestine refugee students. Between 1992 and 1994 the Government of Japan contributed an additional US$ 400,000 annually, and $500,000 in 1995, each such contribution to be spent over a five-year period, towards the UNRWA university scholarships programme for secondary school graduates from the UNRWA area of operations; the recipients are Palestine refugee students. A total of 302 recipients participated in the programme in 1995/96. These awards, while not specifically in response to the General Assembly resolutions, are in keeping with their spirit.

4. The Government of Switzerland contributed $1,207,171 between 1989 and 1994 to the UNRWA university scholarships programme for Palestine refugee students and contributed an additional $256,410 to the programme in 1995. Sixty-two scholars graduated between 1993 and 1995, while 221 students from the UNRWA area of operations were still pursuing their university studies in the 1995/96 academic year.

5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as part of its long-standing agreement with UNRWA, granted 175 fellowships to Palestine refugee education staff of UNRWA in the period from 1981 to 1994. The Director-General addressed a circular letter on 25 February 1994 to member States, international organizations and Arab and Islamic funding sources appealing for voluntary contributions to a special fund for fellowships for Palestinian students and requesting them to consider providing sponsored fellowships for Palestinians. The circular letter was in accordance with decision 5.3.1 adopted by the UNESCO Executive Board at its one hundred and forty-second session. During the 1993/94 academic year, UNESCO awarded 28 scholarships to Palestinian students under the regional project entitled "Scholarship fund for higher education for students of occupied Arab territories", 17 scholarships from its regular programme and budget, and three scholarships under its Participation Programme, totalling $213,500. Under the inter-university cooperation programme Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education (PEACE) funded by UNESCO and the European Union and signed in September 1992, two scholarships were awarded and seven short-term study visits

to Palestinian university professors were awarded in the amount of $37,000. UNESCO has offered five new awards to Palestinian students since October 1995. In addition, the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to UNESCO submitted five candidatures for fellowships, for which the Education Sector in UNESCO provided $16,000. Of these fellowships three awards were made while the other two were pending confirmation of registration from the host institution. Another six fellowships were offered by different countries through UNESCO, of which two were from the Government of the Philippines lasting two years and to be implemented during 1996-1998, one from the Russian Federation in the field of radio and electronics under the sponsorship of the International Cooperation of Graduates of Soviet Educational Institutions (INCORVUZ) and expected to start in September/December 1996, and three from Burkina Faso in the fields of law, medicine and economics. Another 32 applications of Palestinian students were submitted by the Palestinian Authority to UNESCO and were still under consideration by UNESCO.

6. Since 1994 all fellowship applications to the World Health Organization (WHO) have been nominated by the Palestinian Authority. In 1995 WHO received 43 applications from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for fellowships scheduled to begin in late 1995. All these applications were processed and 43 fellowships ranging between two weeks to 12 months duration were completed in 1995/96 in various specializations and in different Arab, Asian and European countries.

7. The scholarships reported in 1995 (see A/50/450) which were offered to UNRWA by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to train Agency staff members during the years 1994/95 were not processed. Three applications submitted to WIPO in 1994 were being considered for courses to be conducted during 1995/96. Another two applications were sent to WIPO in 1995 to be considered for courses to be conducted in 1996/97.

8. The United World Colleges continued their cooperation with UNRWA by offering scholarships to Palestine refugee students who complete the tenth grade, to study for two years leading to the international baccalaureate. In 1996, four scholarships were offered by the United World College of the Adriatic in Italy, Pearson College in Canada, Armand Hammer in the United States of America and the Li Po Chun in Hong Kong. They were scheduled to commence in September 1996.

9. The Technical Assistance Programme of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for the training of Palestinians was defined after a mission to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in March 1995 by the section of UPU for the Arab countries. Within the framework of UPU technical assistance to the Arab countries for 1995, the Palestinian post office was to be provided with two scholarships, one in the field of marketing and the other in the field of postal services.

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 50/28 F of 6 December 1995, entitled "Revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties, the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and to establish a fund for the receipt of income derived therefrom, on behalf of the rightful owners;

"2. Calls once more upon Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

"3. Calls upon the Governments of all the other Member States concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel which would assist the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

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"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 4 April 1996, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Government of Israel the text of General Assembly resolutions 50/28 A to G of 6 December 1995, with the request that it inform him by 1 June 1996 of any steps it had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions.

3. On 10 April 1996, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all other Member States, drawing their attention to the relevant provision of resolutions 50/28 A to G, including paragraph 3 of resolution 50/28 F, and requesting information by 1 June 1996 concerning any action taken or envisaged in relation to their implementation.

4. A reply dated 3 May 1996 was received from Israel, covering various aspects of resolutions 50/28 A to G. The text reads as follows:

"Israel's position on these resolutions has been set forth in successive annual replies submitted to the Secretary-General in recent years, the latest of which being Israel's note verbale dated 8 June 1995. While it is true that the number of resolutions regarding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been reduced in the past years from 10 to 7, the content of these resolutions remains occupied with political issues irrelevant to the work for which UNRWA is responsible, and thus remains detached from the new reality. Accordingly, Israel abstained on resolutions 50/28 D, and voted against resolutions 50/28 A, C, E, F and G.

"It should be noted that the signature of the Declaration of Principles and the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area has engendered further significant progress in the framework of the peace process. This includes the signature, by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), of the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 28 September 1995 in Washington, D.C., the redeployment of Israel Defence Forces from Palestinian population centres, the elections to the Palestinian Council and the continuing negotiations on further implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

"Israel believes that UNRWA can play an important role in promoting the social and economic advancement foreseen in the agreements between Israel and the PLO, and accordingly looks forward to continuing the cooperation and good working relationship with UNRWA.

"In the light of the above, Israel considers it essential that the General Assembly consolidate the resolutions regarding UNRWA into one resolution directly related to the agency's humanitarian tasks. This would also be compatible with the necessity to rationalize the work of the General Assembly."

5. No replies have been received from other Member States with regard to paragraph 3 of resolution 50/28 F.

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A

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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Letter dated 17 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Final Declaration of the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 3 to 6 September 1996 (see annex).

I wish to request you to kindly arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 87 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Ibrahim A. GAMBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Final Declaration of the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 3 to 6 September 1996

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries met at Abuja, Nigeria, in September 1996 to appraise the implementation of decisions adopted at the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Pyongyang in June 1993, and the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena, Colombia in October 1995, and to discuss new strategies for future activities.

II. CURRENT WORLD SITUATION IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

2. The Ministers reviewed the global trend in information and communication and agreed that developed countries were employing their media to disseminate false and distorted information of events taking place in developing countries.

3. The Ministers noted with concern the following measures that impede normal development in the field of information and communication in non-aligned countries:

(a) The unbalanced global economic situation;

(b) The use of the technological superiority of the West against non-aligned countries;

(c) The use of unilateral coercive measures that violate international law and the Charter of the United Nations against non-aligned countries.

4. The Ministers noted the enormous cost and rapid changes in information and communication technology, which presently outpace the rate of acquisition and utilization of such communication equipment by developing countries, thus posing immense financial and technical difficulties and increasing the information and communication gap between developed and developing countries and their dependence on external broadcast and information. They agreed on the need for intensive research efforts by non-aligned countries into the development of communication technology and inter- and intra-regional cooperation as a means of redressing the imbalance through an enhanced outflow of information from developing countries.

5. The Ministers appraised performances of non-aligned countries in the realm of information and communication against the background of the resolutions adopted and the efforts made since the Fourth Conference and subsequent meetings. They acknowledged the increased efforts being made by some non-aligned and other developing countries to develop their information and communication networks.

6. The Ministers recognized the need for more dynamic action and resilience on the part of Governments of the non-aligned countries, stressing that investments made in information and communication are of paramount national interest and mutual benefit to member nations. In this regard they called for an increase in cooperation among non-aligned countries in this field and for the adequate structuring of the mechanism of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries geared to this end.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW WORLD INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ORDER

7. The Ministers agreed that the struggle for the new world information and communication order should be intensified in spite of the end of the cold war, since the challenges and realities that informed the call for the order were still prevalent.

8. The Ministers noted the continued imbalances and inequalities in the field of international information and communication. They highlighted the serious implications that the negative situation portended for non-aligned countries and stressed the urgent need to establish a new world information and communication order on the basis of the principles of independence, progress, democracy and mutual cooperation.

9. The Ministers observed that the long history of the efforts for a new world information and communication order notwithstanding, the salient objectives were yet to be realized. They expressed concern that developing nations were still impoverished, not only materially and economically, but in terms of equitable endowments and opportunities in the field of global information and communication.

10. The Ministers stressed the need for South-South cooperation for the attainment of the collective objective of redressing present imbalances in the world information and communication order. Towards that end, they resolved seriously to consider fresh policy options in order to give proper effect to the segments of the Final Declaration of the Fourth Conference, held at Pyongyang, dealing with South-South cooperation as a key element in increasing information capabilities at the national, regional and global levels.

11. The Ministers agreed to reduce dependence on the information and cultural media of the industrialized nations by initiating and supporting cooperative activities through fresh and dynamic approaches to programming, message content and networking in the media systems of non-aligned and other developing countries.

12. The Ministers called for increased investments in human and material resources in the area of information and communication. They equally expressed support for the incorporation of development journalism in the curricula of training institutions of developing nations to awaken in media practitioners the consciousness and zeal to serve the interests of member States of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries.

13. The Ministers emphasized the need for information and communication strategies to be rooted in deep historical and cultural processes, and urged that the views, models and perspectives of the media of developed countries not be allowed to determine to an undue extent the style and orientation of media policies in developing countries. In that context the Ministers considered of utmost importance the reactivation of the concept of the new world information and communication order and pledged to promote it both in the United Nations and in other international conferences, including those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

14. Expressing concern over the sustained, biased and distorted Western media reporting on non-aligned countries, the Ministers noted the relentless efforts of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP), the Broadcasting Organizations of Non-Aligned Countries (BONAC) and other regional media organizations to combat the threat.

15. The Ministers stressed the need to coordinate the activities of national focal points of the non-aligned countries at the regional level with a view to strengthening the activities of NANAP and BONAC and to enhance their efficiency, and thus to accelerate the process of establishing the new world information and communication order.

IV. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION AMONG NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool

16. The Ministers noted the commitment of NANAP to the common ideals and aspirations of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

17. The Ministers acknowledged the sustained determination of NANAP to facilitate the concerted objective of non-aligned member States and other developing countries to break the present monopoly of the international information system, and thereby boost the development process of member States of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

18. The Ministers noted with satisfaction NANAP's pursuance of the common objective of the Movement within the context of the current political and economic situation in the world.

19. The Ministers also noted with satisfaction the efforts made by NANAP during the last four years under the active chairmanship of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and stressed the need for further cooperation of NANAP member agencies within both bilateral and multilateral frameworks to increase the quality and quantity of news exchange and experience among the members.

Broadcasting Organizations of Non-Aligned Countries

20. The Ministers reaffirmed their belief in the potency of BONAC as an effective medium for transmitting factual news of events of the developing countries to the world. Accordingly, they acknowledged the need to reposition and revitalize BONAC in order to enable it to attain its primary goals and objectives.

21. Towards that end the Ministers urged greater cooperation and interrelationship among broadcasting organizations of member countries in a manner that would provide BONAC with the required support for the effective prosecution of its mandate.

22. The Ministers stressed that BONAC must not be allowed to experience any impediment and advised it to endeavour to work harder and avail member countries of effective operational and technical strategies to enhance their functions. In addition, it mandated the Technical Committee to undertake a detailed assessment of BONAC and to make recommendations to the Conference on how to optimize its services.

23. The Ministers urged that the Fourth BONAC General Conference be convened as early as possible in order to reactivate BONAC.

24. The Ministers acknowledged the role of private broadcasting in modern public information and communication processes and agreed that private practitioners should be encouraged, as a complement to efforts of government agencies.

International information centres of non-aligned countries

25. The Ministers noted that the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Pyongyang in June 1993, had recommended the setting up of new international information centres on different continents to promote South-South cooperation in the field of information and communication based on the principle of collective self-reliance. They further noted that the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena, Colombia, in October 1995, had called for accelerating the process of setting up the new international information centres of non-aligned countries.

26. The Ministers stressed that the setting up of the new international information centres would promote inter- and intra-regional cooperation in the field of information and communication in conformity with the trend of regionalization of South-South cooperation and thus contribute practically to the revitalization of information and communication organizations existing in the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and, in the long run, to the establishment of an equitable new world information and communication order.

27. The Ministers also agreed that the centres should not be competitive, but should complement and reinforce existing information structures and organizations such as NANAP and BONAC.

27 (b) The Ministers urged the non-aligned countries to accelerate the process of setting up the new international information centres, bearing in mind that it was not intended that the centres should overlap or duplicate the functions of the existing institutions.

V. LONG-TERM PROJECTION ON THE USE AND APPLICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY BY MASS MEDIA IN NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

28. The Ministers restated their commitment to the application of modern technologies in communication as an imperative requirement for national and regional communication organizations in a bid to bridge the prevailing gap between developed and developing nations.

29. The Ministers were gratified that modern communication structures were being developed in member countries of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which would serve as the bedrock for the development of a concerted information and communication network for the Movement.

30. The Ministers therefore stressed the urgency of cataloguing the status of telecommunications facilities and technologies in non-aligned countries.

31. The Ministers agreed on the need for both bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the areas of telecommunication and mass media and noted the offer made by Egypt to assist member countries wishing to profit from its satellite and information network programmes.

32. The Ministers reiterated the importance of retraining of personnel as vital in the use of modern technologies and advocated greater cooperation in the exchange of experiences gained in the development of modern technologies by mass media in the developing countries.

VI. GENERAL STATEMENT

33. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of disseminating information with respect to sovereignty and self-determination and denounced all forms of domination and subjugation, notably colonialism, aggression, terrorism, economic blockade and interference against member States of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. They urged the mass media of non-aligned countries to disseminate information on the activities and functions of the Movement in order to encourage efforts and cooperation among the non-aligned and other developing countries for South-South cooperation on the principle of collective self-reliance.

34. The Ministers of Information of non-aligned countries recalled the relevant decisions taken in non-aligned forums and United Nations resolutions and the Geneva Convention of 1949, and:

(a) Reaffirmed the unequivocal condemnation of any political, diplomatic, moral, material or information support to terrorism, as specified in

paragraph 116 of the final document of the Cartagena Conference of the Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries.

(b) Urged member States to accelerate the implementation of the Lusaka Accord on Angola and called upon the international community to provide the pledged funds on a predictable and timely basis;

(b)(i) Recalling the statement made by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on 23 August 1996 (NOAL/0733/F) and the communiqué issued by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Movement in the Methodology Committee (Cartagena, May 1996) on the extraterritorial application of domestic laws against the international community, the Ministers reaffirmed that the enactment of such legislation is a blatant violation against the inalienable sovereignty of all States;

(c) Called upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial measures that intensify the embargo against Cuba. They also urged the Government of the United States to put an end to aggressive radio and TV transmission against Cuba;

(d) Called for the withdrawal of foreign troops and settlers and reiterated their solidarity and support for the people and the Government of Cyprus. They also reiterated their support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of that country;

(e) Backed efforts aimed at disseminating information about efforts of the Korean people for the reunification of their country based on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and greater national unity;

(f) Took note of the statements made by Iraq, and other member States regarding the recent United States attacks on Iraq and expressed their deep concern over the adverse effect they are likely to have on peace and security in the region, and further expressed their support for Iraq;

(g) Expressed their solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and called upon the other countries concerned to respond positively to the initiatives calling for dialogue and negotiations that would lead to an acceptable solution for the parties;

(h) Reaffirmed their support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), to secure their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence, and reiterated their demand for the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Palestinian and other Arab lands, including Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights, to the 4 June 1967 line, and from southern Lebanon based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978); a/

(i) Stressed that it is important to spread information on the successful conclusion and implementation activities of regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the

Constitutive Agreement of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the League of Arab States (LAS);

(j) Called for the dissemination of information on the role of the Association of South-East Asian Nations in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in their region as well as enhancing cooperation in the wider Asia-Pacific region. They also emphasized the need to disseminate information on the progress being made in ASEAN's continued endeavour to achieve the zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in South-East Asia and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region;

(k) Supported the efforts of the leaders of the Economic Community of West African States aimed at bringing peace and security to Liberia and called on the international community to honour its pledges to provide financial and material support in order to accelerate the process of disarmament and eventual return of peace in Liberia;

(l) Noting the importance of historical artifacts in the life of nations, which are considered as an essential part of their people's recollections, the Fifth Conference reviewed thoroughly the programmed operation of usurping of these historical artifacts and treasures of the ancient civilizations of member countries by the countries of the North during the colonial era and the continuous efforts made individually and collectively by concerned countries of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to regain the usurped antiquities and priceless treasures and welcomed a suggestion by the delegation of Iraq to set up a follow-up committee of experts of the countries concerned to prepare a detailed study and a comprehensive planning, taking into consideration the legal procedures possible to regain artefacts through the International Court of Justice in The Hague or through the United Nations General Assembly.

Notes

a/ On paragraph 34 (h) above, the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted a reservation as follows:

> "The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its reservation regarding paragraph 34 (h) of the Final Declaration of the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries on the so-called peace process in the Middle East, which is not in conformity with the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy on this issue.
>
> "This policy, which has been reiterated in detail, is based on a just and durable peace in the Middle East based on the restoration of usurped rights of the Palestinians. The reservation also refers to any part of the above-mentioned paragraph which may be construed as a recognition of Israel."

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OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	2
II.	SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS AND AWARDS	5 - 8	2
III.	APPLICATIONS MADE THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS	9 - 10	4

* A/51/150.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954, Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard, but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI) o 19 December 1961, offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme is included in the twenty-ninth edition of the handbook entitled Study Abroad (1995/1996), published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

4. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions, 1/ the Secretary-General submits to the Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized. 2/ The present report, which covers the period from 1 October 1995 to 30 September 1996, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 50/35 of 6 December 1995.

II. SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS AND AWARDS

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 46 States Members of the United Nations and one non-member State listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the resolutions mentioned above:

Australia
Austria
Barbados
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechoslovakia
Egypt
Finland
Gabon
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hungary
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Malta
Mexico
New Zealand
Pakistan
Panama
Philippines
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Yugoslavia

6. In addition to the programme under General Assembly resolution 845 (IX), a number of Member States have contributed to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA).

B. Offers and awards

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

7. In a note verbale dated 28 August 1996, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that during the financial year 1995/96 the United Kingdom had offered 64 scholarships to students from the British Non-Self-Governing Territories as follows: Anguilla (5); Bermuda (20); British Virgin Islands (5); Cayman Islands (8); Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (2); Gibraltar (2); Montserrat (3); Saint Helena (including Tristan da Cunha) (18); and Turks and Caicos Islands (1).

Austria

8. In a note verbale dated 5 September 1996, the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that the Austrian Development Cooperation Programme regularly provided vocational training and capacity-building in the infrastructure and education sectors for inhabitants of Western Sahara. Furthermore, specific assistance was being provided on a regular basis for the training of kindergarten teachers from that Territory.

III. APPLICATIONS MADE THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS

9. In accordance with the procedure established by General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

10. Between 16 September 1995 and 15 September 1996, the Secretariat received requests from 29 students for information on the availability of scholarships. None of those students were inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Notes

1/ The most recent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this question are resolutions 48/48 of 10 December 1993, 49/42 of 9 December 1994 and 50/35 of 6 December 1995.

2/ For the most recent reports, see A/48/443, A/49/413 and A/50/481.